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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Summary of work in Chinatown, San Francisco, for week ended September 26, 1903.

The following is received from Passed Assistant Surgeon Blue, at San Francisco, under date of September 28, being record of work in Chinatown for week ended September 26, 1903:

Buildings reinspected	168
Rooms	1,301
Persons inspected	1,491
Sick	16
Sick seen and prescribed for at Oriental Dispensary	12
Dead examined	9
Necropsies	3
Rats examined bacteriologically	67
Number showing pest infection	2
Places limed and disinfected	932
Times streets swept	3
Sewers flushed	24
Notices to abate plumbing nuisances	20
Plumbing nuisances abated	20
Total number of plumbing inspections	145
Number of buildings undergoing sanitary improvements	13

History of yellow fever case on steamship Colon, at San Francisco Quarantine, from Panama—Yellow fever on vessels in previous years.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,
ANGEL ISLAND, CALIFORNIA,
September 16, 1903.

SIR: Confirming my telegram of the 10th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the Pacific Mail steamship *Colon* arrived at this station about noon of the 10th instant, and was remanded to the hulk *Omaha* on account of a case of yellow fever on board. The patient was immediately removed to the hospital at this station. As soon afterwards as a tug could be secured the passengers and most of the crew were brought over and effects disinfected to kill mosquitoes, etc. Simultaneous disinfection of forecandle, holds, saloon, staterooms, etc., with dry SO², was begun, and upon the 11th, 6 p. m., the vessel was turned over to towboats, all personnel having been removed to the station for five days' observation.

The case was an interesting one from a quarantine standpoint. The patient was a strong, lithe man; age given upon articles, 23 years (probably 28 or 30 years); native of Chile. He shipped at Acapulco

upon the down voyage. Was ashore at Panama, but at no port upon the up trip. Vessel loaded in open water from lighters at all ports en route. Fifteen days from Panama, in the early morning, the man reported to the ship's surgeon with headache, pains in back over liver and down right shoulder. History of chill during night or early morning; no history of malaria; pulse 65; temperature 40° (102°); appearance of slight icterus which rapidly increased.

No written history kept nor examination of urine or blood made. Diagnosis of obstruction to bile duct. No vomiting noted.

When seen by me the man had just been brought from the fore-castle and placed in the gangway in the cold wind. He was semiconscious, responding to loud inquiry as to whether he wanted water. Body bronze yellow; eyes very yellow; tongue not enlarged, pointed, red around edge, some sordes; left parotid gland enlarged and tender; some shrinking on pressure in epigastric region; spleen and liver not enlarged (percussion and palpation). Some blood signs on blanket, but possibly due to ulcer on left elbow.

After having been removed, catheterization brought 235 c. c. of urine highly colored, slightly cloudy. Specific gravity, 1010. Reaction, acid. Albumin in large quantities by all tests used. Examination of blood for malaria by several officers, negative. Pus in parotid gland, ordinary diplococci.

Patient grew worse, during night had classical black vomit, died next day. Autopsy confirmed diagnosis. Cremated.

The interesting features from a sanitary point are: First attack fifteen days from the only place reported infected and about three days after leaving Acapulco. Old masters inform me that the cool north trade wind nearly always drives all mosquitoes away or into hiding soon after they leave Acapulco bound north. The vessel was thoroughly searched by myself, other officers, and attendants for mosquitoes, dead or alive, and not one was found despite a considerable reward I offered.

A careful search of station records for yellow fever data had just been completed a short time before this vessel was reported, and may be of interest to the bureau or yellow fever commission, section upon transmission.

August 23, 1894, U. S. S. *Bennington* landed three cases here; only data is that the last case was attacked July 28. I am informed that she had been for a long time surveying La Union, and other points on the coast of Salvador.

Weekly abstracts, page 597, 1897, consul at Panama reports May 1, S. S. *Colon* lost three cases before reaching a port 600 miles north. No history as to case on arrival here, or fumigation.

Ibid. Reports May 10; *Newport* sent cases ashore; no history subsequent cases or fumigation.

June 2, 1897, *City of Para* arrived here from Panama. Captain

died of yellow fever en route soon after leaving Panama; one case died as vessel entered this port.

July 2, 1897; *Acapulco* held here on account of four deaths en route.

July 11, 1897, *San Juan* arrived from San Jose de Guatemala (about fifteen days); one case upon arrival; no history of other cases. *City of Sydney* also arrived from Panama with history of one case while in Panama. No other case reported, nor history of disinfection.

Each of these vessels had heavy passenger lists.

June, 1898, steamship *Newport* arrived from Panama; one case of yellow fever, an Englishman, cabin passenger, who died as the vessel entered the harbor. No history of other cases.

May 20, 1902, *City of Para* arrived from Panama and remanded for disinfection. Three days out the freight clerk (who had been ashore) had an attack, and died May 2. No other cases reported, and careful search by me failed to show any mosquitoes.

September 10, 1903, the case first reported.

Respectfully,

HUGH S. CUMMING,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, in Command.

Inspection service, Mexican border.

El Paso, Tex.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Alexander reports, September 19, 1903, as follows:

WEEK ENDED SEPTEMBER 19, 1903.

Inspection Mexican Central passengers	237
Inspection Rio Grande and Pacific passengers	27
Inspection Mexican immigrants	107
Inspection of certificate, cause of death, corpse transferred into United States ..	1
Inspection special passengers from Monterey, Mexico	4
Disinfection soiled linen imported for laundry, pieces	519
Vaccination	10

Disinfection of 3 trunks and sundry baggage, passengers from Monterey.

Detention of 4 passengers from Monterey, Mexico, to complete requisite time (four days).

LAREDO, TEX.

Assistant Surgeon Richardson ordered to return to Laredo.

WASHINGTON, September 16, 1903.

RICHARDSON, U. S. Consulate, Tampico, Mexico:

Orders amended. Return direct via Laredo. On arrival Laredo, inspect service quarantine there and wire any necessary recommendations. If too ill, wire from Laredo and go on.

WYMAN.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf ordered to Laredo.

WASHINGTON, September 16, 1903.

VON EZDORF, Matanzas, Cuba:

Relieved Matanzas. Proceed by first steamer to New Orleans. Wire arrival. Instructions will be sent you then to proceed to Laredo